**UNITED NATIONS**

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**General Assembly**
**Security Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/943
S/1997/545
11 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 109 and 110

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 9 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit for your information the appeal of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to the international community, dated 8 July 1997.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 109 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Appeal of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of Cambodia, to the international community, issued on 8 July 1997

The recent event that took place last Saturday in my poor country of Cambodia saddened me deeply. As a Cambodian, I feel ashamed for the act committed by my colleague, Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. His love for absolute power over Cambodia and the suffering Cambodian people showed how thirsty he is to control and direct Cambodia illegally and unconstitutionally.

I, Norodom Ranariddh, who was elected by universal suffrage in democratic elections organized and supervised by the United Nations in 1993, won the elections. In the spirit of national reconciliation under the very high leadership of King Norodom Sihanouk, I agreed to share power with Samdech Hun Sen, the loser of the election.

The Royal Government of Cambodia was then formed, with two Prime Ministers sharing equal power. I agreed to put into practice this new system of two Heads of Government, hoping that slowly the people and the nation of Cambodia would be unified. But this did not work out. The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) under Samdech Hun Sen continued to deny me and the Funcinpec Party equal power in villages and communes and at the district level.

As time passed, the more and more aggressive nature of Samdech Hun Sen was shown in his open criticism without shame against me and the Funcinpec Party. The spirit of national reconciliation has been slowly deteriorating and breaking apart since March 1996. As a national leader, Samdech Hun Sen continued to attack me in an unprofessional manner. His words and actions do not befit a national leader.

1. I therefore appeal to all peace- and justice-loving nations of the world who have always supported Cambodia's right to liberty to intervene in Cambodia. This is a shameful act committed by my colleague and partner Samdech Hun Sen, Second Prime Minister. I call for the renewal of the discussion on national reconciliation, as proposed by King Norodom Sihanouk in his letter addressed to me and my partner as well as to Mr. Samdech Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly. My door is open for discussion with him at any time and any place, except Cambodia.

2. If all approaches towards negotiation fail, I appeal to the States Members of the United Nations not to recognize the new coup leaders in Cambodia. No coup d'état whatsoever could be condoned by any peace-loving nations.

3. I appeal to the international community to place economic sanctions on Cambodia.

4. I call on all Member States to continue to recognize the current Ambassadors and Consul Generals of the Kingdom of Cambodia, accredited all over the world, who were recommended by me and Samdech Hun Sen himself and approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. All their credentials were signed by King Norodom Sihanouk. They

should not be removed by the coup leader. They are the true representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

5. I call on the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to review the admission of Cambodia into its distinguished Association. Cambodia is no longer a democratic nation. The current coup leaders under Samdech Hun Sen are not democratically elected leaders of the Cambodian people, but oppressors of the suffering innocent Cambodian people. ASEAN should continue to put Cambodia on its agenda as was successfully done in the United Nations from 1979 to 1991, leading to the successful Paris International Conference on Cambodia, co-chaired by France and Indonesia.

6. No one can replace me as First Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. If another individual is put into place, he or she will first have to have a vote of confidence in the National Assembly of Cambodia and secondly be introduced to the King in an official swearing-in ceremony in the Hall of the Throne of the Royal Palace at which all members of the new cabinet and members of Parliament must be present. If a new cabinet is set up, the First Prime Minister will be the real puppet of Samdech Hun Sen. The King is presently in Beijing for medical treatment and the Hall of the Throne of the Royal Palace of Cambodia cannot be dismantled and transported elsewhere on earth.

The National Assembly of Cambodia is no longer a credible body consisting of democratically elected law-makers, but rather a rubber-stamp people's congress of Samdech Hun Sen and the CPP. Funcinpec members of Parliament have fled or are in hiding somewhere in Cambodia. The lives of those who are overseas are safe, but those who have been detained and forced at gun-point will from now on have to answer to and support Samdech Hun Sen.

7. Cambodia's democracy has collapsed. Freedom of the press no longer exists, and those who dare to criticize Samdech Hun Sen will be physically silenced. It is now a military junta regime led by coup leader Samdech Hun Sen and his collaborators. It is not an internal affair of Cambodia, as claimed by Samdech Hun Sen, and he cannot deceive the international community by claiming that he represents, legally and legitimately, the Royal Government. He needs the Royal Government only for his own personal ambition.

8. The international community, through the United Nations, has invested so much time and energy, along with financial assistance and human resources, to put Cambodia back into a state of law as well as slowly to improve human rights conditions. It should continue to intervene in this critical situation and to put pressure on the coup leaders so that they will not be recognized and that no assistance whatsoever in any form will continue to flow freely into Cambodia.

9. I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend and comrade-in-arms, Ho Sok, Secretary of State for the Interior, who was arrested, detained and shot to death by the coup leader without giving him a chance to answer before a court of law. I present my heartfelt condolences to his beloved family and friends. The memories of my beloved friend Ho Sok, a distinguished and loyal servant of the Cambodian people, will always be eternally cherished in my heart. The Cambodian Constitution abolished the death penalty on 23 September 1993, when the new Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia was promulgated by the King. This is a pure violation of human rights by Samdech Hun Sen.

10. Samdech Hun Sen and the CPP fear the democratic elections next year, which we both agreed should be held in May 1998 with the cooperation of the United Nations, which will coordinate international observers. Samdech Hun Sen presumably knew beforehand that he and the CPP would lose the elections, because there would be then only one Prime Minister according to the new Constitution of Cambodia after the general elections in 1998.

11. Cambodia now returns to the law of the jungle - commands and dictates only by Samdech Hun Sen. Cambodia is Hun Sen. Hun Sen is the law. Hun Sen is the court of justice and Hun Sen is the judge.

12. My partner, Samdech Hun Sen, has accused me of treason in my national reconciliation efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge to abide and respect the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and to pave the way for them to join all our beloved Cambodian compatriots in one big family. Samdech Hun Sen has quickly forgotten that he was a rough and tough Khmer Rouge commander himself, and Samdech Hun Sen committed tremendous crimes against humanity under the Pol Pot regime in the years from 1975 to 1979. If Pol Pot is to be put on trial by the International Court of Justice, Hun Sen will no doubt be pointed out by Pol Pot as his collaborator and commander of the Khmer Rouge. I agreed to welcome him as my partner and colleague and allow him to bear the title of Co-Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia when he lost the general elections in 1993. So he is a Khmer Rouge too and I had no fear of him whatsoever during my working days with him. I still have no fear of him now. But Hun Sen fears the forces of democracy of the Cambodian people.

13. Samdech Hun Sen negotiated directly with the infamous Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary, who is the brother-in-law of Pol Pot and former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister, without my knowledge. He informed me only later when he wished to request amnesty from the King for Ieng Sary.

14. I call on all foreign investors to boycott Cambodia and not to throw their money needlessly into the personal coffer of Samdech Hun Sen.

15. More than 60 per cent of the Cambodian national budget depends yearly on the help of donor countries. I call on the International Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia and the Consultative Group Meeting to freeze all their assistance to Cambodia.

16. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as the Asian Development Bank and endless international banking institutions around the world, should cease to lend money to the coup leaders of Cambodia. If they do so, this money will be used to suppress the frightened innocent people of Cambodia.

17. Their forces have looted the stores and shops of the poor Cambodian merchants. They are not, therefore, protectors of the safety and security of their own people, but rather thieves and robbers.

18. The coup leaders violated the Constitution of Cambodia and they should not be recognized as the legal representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

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